

Application No.: 10/732,959 (K-C Docket No. 16,514)

Response to Office Action mailed on July 31, 2006

Listing of Claims

Please replace all prior listing of claims with the following:

Please cancel claims 24-42:

Claims 1 – 23 (cancelled).

Claims 24 – 42 (cancelled).

43. (currently amended) An elastomeric article comprising: an elastomeric latex substrate, and a layer of elastic, thermoplastic polymeric fibers either covering or ~~impregnating~~ partially integrated with at least a portion of said latex substrate, said polymeric fibers having a thermally bonded interface with said latex substrate, or are partially melted and intermeshed with one another, such that said polymeric fiber having an original dimension deforms, spreads out, and creates a near continuous interface with said latex substrate.
44. (previously presented) The elastomeric article according to claim 43, wherein when said polymeric fibers cover a surface of said latex substrate, said polymer fibers exhibit at least partial deformation from a standard conformation.
45. (currently amended) The elastomeric article according to claim 44, wherein said polymeric fiber flattens and spreads up to about 2 or 3 times of an original cross-sectional dimension.
46. (previously presented) The elastomeric article according to claim 44, wherein said polymer fiber are at least partially melted and resolidified either into or onto said latex substrate surface.
47. (previously presented) The elastomeric article according to claim 43, wherein said polymer fibers are either partially or fully embedded within said latex substrate.
48. (previously presented) The elastomeric article according to claim 43, wherein said article incorporates pulp fibers, having an average fiber length of greater than about 1 mm.
49. (previously presented) The elastomeric article according to claim 43, wherein said article incorporates thermomechanical pulp fibers.
50. (currently amended) The elastomeric article according to claim 43, wherein said ~~article includes an additional elastomeric component~~ fibers intermesh without requiring the assistance of a glue or other adhesive.
51. (previously presented) The elastomeric article according to claim 43, wherein said polymer fibers are entangled with one another.
52. (previously presented) The elastomeric article according to claim 43, wherein said polymeric fiber layer is thicker than said latex substrate.
53. (previously presented) The elastomeric article according to claim 52, wherein said polymeric fiber layer is from about 100% to about 200% the thickness of said latex substrate.

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54. (previously presented) The elastomeric article according to claim 43, wherein said polymeric fiber layer is thinner than said latex substrate.
55. (previously presented) The elastomeric article according to claim 54, wherein said polymeric fiber layer is from about 25% to about 100% the thickness of said latex substrate.
56. (previously presented) The elastomeric article according to claim 43, wherein said article is a glove, a condom, a boot, an incontinence pad, a blanket, a sheet, or an apparel.
57. (previously presented) The elastomeric article according to claim 43, wherein said latex substrate is a material selected from the group consisting of a natural rubber latex, a synthetic polymer latex, a nitrile polymer, and a neoprene polymer.
58. (Withdrawn) An elastomeric article comprising a coherent mat of polymeric fibers at least partially coating a surface of an elastomeric latex substrate, such that said polymeric fibers adhere to one another, and said polymeric fibers have a thermally bonded interface with said latex substrate.
59. (Withdrawn) The elastomeric article according to claim 16, wherein said polymeric fibers envelopes said latex substrate within said coherent mat.
60. (Withdrawn) The elastomeric article according to claim 16, wherein said polymer fibers impregnated at least partially said latex substrate.
61. (Withdrawn) The elastomeric article according to claim 16, wherein said polymeric fibers are continuous and elastomeric.
62. (Withdrawn) The elastomeric article according to claim 16, wherein said article comprises a porous structure adapted to contain and release a treatment.